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Canada's New Government invests $425,859 in homelessness funding for victims of family violence in Truro

TRURO, NOVA SCOTIA, March 9, 2007— Mr. Bill Casey, Member of Parliament for Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley, on behalf of the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, today announced $425,859 in funding for Third Place Transition House, a shelter for women and children fleeing violence.

"This project will provide a new shelter designed specifically to accommodate the needs of women and children suddenly made homeless by violence and abuse," said Mr. Casey. "Canada's New Government is proud to work with Truro Place to provide victimized women with the supports they need to become independent."

The current shelter, operated by the Victims of Family Violence Association, is in a building that dates back to 1929 and is now 78 years old. The new building will focus on providing a facility that is private, secure and accessible.

Federal funding for this project was provided under the Regional Homelessness Fund, a component of the National Homelessness Initiative. This project also received funding of $175,000 from the Province of Nova Scotia's Department of Community Services; $48,600 from the County of Colchester; and $25,000 from the Town of Truro. Additional funding of $10,000 was provided by the Victims of Family Violence Association.

"A place to call home, if only for a short while, is what these women and children need most," said Jamie Muir, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Truro-Bible Hill on behalf of Community Services Minister Judy Streatch. "This new funding for Third Place Transition House will provide security in a stable and comforting environment."

"We are so grateful to all the funding partners for supporting this worthwhile project in our community," Jill Nette, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Victims of Family Violence Association. "The women and children we help are facing the most difficult time in their lives and a new shelter will allow us to continue to provide a safe place for them while at the same time providing the guidance they need to start moving towards self sufficiency."

Canada's New Government recently announced that the NHI, scheduled to end in March 2007, will be replaced by an improved strategy, the Homelessness Partnering Strategy, on April 1, 2007. The new Homelessness Partnering Strategy will provide $269.6 million over two years to help communities across Canada combat homelessness more effectively. The strategy focuses on a housing-first approach to homelessness, recognizing that housing stability is essential to self-sufficiency and full participation in Canadian society. With its clear goals of improved partnerships, enhanced sustainability and tangible results, the new Strategy will provide concrete, meaningful and lasting results for Canadians in need.

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This news release is available in alternative formats upon request.

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